

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07

LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 L-03 INT-05 TRSE-00 DODE-00

PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSC-05 /080 W

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R 151833Z AUG 75

FM AMCONSUL PARAMARIBO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2134

INFO AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

AMCONSUL CURACAO

AMCONSUL MARTINIQUE

LIMITED OFFICIAL PARAMARIBO 0403

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: EMIN, EIND, NS

SUBJ: SURALCO LABOR PROBLEMS NEAR RESOLUTION

REF : A. PARAMARIBO 384; B. PARAMARIBO 390 (NOTAL)

1. FOLLOWING DEPARTURE YESTERDAY OF VISITING ALCOA VICE PRES JOE YATES SURALCO HAS AGREED, IN RETURN FOR PARANAM UNION SUPPORT FOR NORMALIZING SITUATION, TO RESTORE DEMOTED WORKERS TO OLD JOBS AT FORMER SALARIES. APPRENTICES WILL BE CONTINUED IN PREVIOUS STATUS, WHILE UNSKILLED WORKERS IN NOW-DISSOLVED LABOR POOL WILL RETURN TO DIVISIONS IN WHICH THEY WERE DECLARED REDUNDANT. DEMOTED SEMI-SKILLED WORKERS TO BE OCCUPIED IN READYING UNUSED POT-LINE IN SMELTER FOR OPERATION WHEN DEMAND FOR ALUMINUM PICKS UP.

2. COMPANY NOW FEELS THERE IS LITTLE REAL PROSPECT THAT GOS WILL MOVE QUICKLY, IF AT ALL, TO PUNISH RING-LEADERS OF PARANAM RIOT. SURALCO MANAGING DIRECTOR BUSTION TOLD ME TODAY

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THAT WHILE THEY ENDEAVORING GET POLICE TO MOVE ON AT LEAST A

FEW ARRESTS, BIGGEST PROBLEM IS CONVINCING PARANAM PERSONNEL TO MAKE CLEAR IDENTIFICATION OF RIOT LEADERS. SURALCO NOW PREPARED, IF NECESSARY, TO SIMPLY KEEP EX-RIOTERS ON JOB AND TAKE NORMAL DISCIPLINARY ACTION IF THEY CAUSE FURTHER TROUBLE INDIVIDUALLY.

3. PRIOR HIS DEPARTURE, YATES SAW PRIMMIN ARRON TO EXPRESS HIS CONCERN THAT THE COMPANY COULD BE FORCED TO CLOSE DOWN IF DEPREDATIONS SUCH AS THOSE AT PARANAM WERE TO CONTINUE OR BE ALLOWED TO GO COMPLETELY UNPUNISHED. ARRON ACKNOWLEDGED DANGERS, WITH LITTLE ENTHUSIASM PROMISED PROSECUTIONS, AND ASSURED YATES AND BUSTION OF FULL PROTECTION IN FUTURE.

4. COMMENT: ODDLY ENOUGH, DEMOTIONS OF WORKERS (ABOUT 65) AND THEIR PLACEMENT IN 400-MAN LABOR POOL WERE APPARENTLY NEVER EXPLAINED AS A MEANS OF KEEPING REDUNDANT WORKERS ON PAYROLL, THUS DEMOTIONS AND LABOR POOL ITSELF SEEN AS ARBITRARY AND DEMEANING. SURALCO WISELY OVERHAULING PERSONNEL PRACTICES AND EXPLAINING OVER WEEKEND ENTIRE HISTORY OF LABOR POOL AND MEASURES COMPANY NOW TAKING TO RETURN SITUATION TO NORMAL. THERE IS REASON FOR OPTIMISM THAT COMPANY OPERATIONS WILL RETURN TO EVEN KEEL NEXT WEEK, SO LONG AS OUTSIDE AGITATORS KEPT AWAY FROM MASS MEETING CALLED BY UNION NEXT WEEK IN SUPPORT OF LATEST COMPANY ACTION.
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